

Musser Public Library Board of Trustees

Musser Public Library, 408 East 2nd St

March 17th, 2021, 5:00pm

Roll Call

Present: Pam Collins; Jane Daufeldt; Nancy Dew; Diana Gradert; Jarod Johnson; Anthony Loconsole; Jeanett Martinez; Jon Moravec

Absent: Bret Olson

Guest: Greg Benefiel; Robert Fiedler; Mallory Moffitt (secretary)

Call to Order: Gradert called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

Approval of Agenda: Dew moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Moravec; Motion passed

Approval of Minutes: Dew moved to approve the minutes from January 20th; seconded by Martinez; Motion passed

Ratify Bills for Payment: Daufeldt moved to ratify the bills from 01/22, 02/05, 02/19, and 03/05 as presented; seconded by Dew; Motion passed

Receive Communications: No report

Citizens Speak: No report

Staff Liaison: Finally opened up a part time position for Reference/Circulation, applications are being collected at City Hall. The position is open until filled. Bobby and Greg will check applications next week. We will soon open a 15-hour part time Secretary position to help Pam.

Friends' Report: They have been able to liberate their funds from First National and have turned over the stock certificates, along with the funds, to the Community Foundation. Between stock, cash, and money market funds there is over \$100,000 in the account. Will be putting money into an endowment fund where it will earn higher interest. Xiaowen, JoAnn, and Greg are the core of the Friends' board. They will be purchasing a camera that will be installed on the roof to film scenic views around downtown and the riverfront. May split feed with the Chamber.

Director's Report: With COVID lessening, we have further loosened our restrictions. We have added the large meeting room to the rooms we are allowing the public to reserve and use. We also began opening two hours more on Sundays (12:00-4:00) and have started allowing children over 12 to use the library unaccompanied by an adult. Betty and Kimi created and are overseeing our Winter Reading Program. The theme is Superstitions and we have created a number of interesting PSAs using a local Bigfoot. Finally, in the last few weeks we have seen an increase in library traffic and usage. People are beginning to feel comfortable enough to venture into the library. As a City Building, we still require masks and that has been met with some resistance (given the Governor's proclamation) but we hope that will be a short-term issue. County informed us that next fiscal year we will be receiving \$122,732 for service to the unincorporated areas of the county, nearly \$2,500 more than we received this year.

Old Business

- 1. Formal revote on MPW Channel 5 Contract** - Moravec moved to approve the Channel 5 contract from MPW with the Schedule A Payment Terms to read 'Musser Public Library' instead of 'Friends of the Library'; seconded by Daufeldt; Motion passed

New Business

- 1. Summer Reading** – We believe that it is better at this time to not plan on in-person group programming for Children’s summer reading. We will still offer Channel 5 programs and take-home activities. Could change at a later date and add more communal activities. The MCSD will have a special program for children that are falling behind this summer with teaching in the morning and other agencies taking the afternoons. Reinforce teaching but is still fun for the kids. Betty would like to take the kindergarten level for 1-2 weeks at most. They would come to the library in groups with teachers. She could use ‘Bridges’ as a theme looking at stories, art, and structure. She would be able to use this program towards her thesis. It will last the usual two months and have the same reward system. Will probably not use national theme: Tails and Tales.
- 2. LENA** - Working on the LENA grant for next year. We were hoping that the State - Early Childhood Iowa would cover the entire cost (\$19,000 for curriculum and tape analysis) but they might not be able to fund the full amount. Currently working with money left over from the previous year. We love the program and find it highly effective and cost effective (under \$175 per child). A remote session just finished and Betty is hoping to go back to in-person soon. AIM wants to increase scale but there is no school support making it difficult. They look at how many children are born to Muscatine residents. We cannot help the numbers AIM wants without incentives from partners. LENA is not sustainable where we are now. We will request 50 placements instead of 100 with the understanding that we can purchase more if needed for the grant for next year.
- 3. Channel 5 Update** - We had a long meeting with John Kruzenstein, a consultant that Chad has worked within the past, and people from MPW. Came up with a plan to make Channel 5 work at the Library rather than at MPW. Getting the infrastructure in place and organizing the server room before contacting MPW. The Mayor is doing a State of the City address at the Library plus her weekly show, Tai Chi is resuming, and Jim VanWinkle volunteered to do remote video ukulele classes. Ad coming out in the Muscatine Magazine designed by Chad.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 6:02pm

Next Board Meeting April 21st, 2021